

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01543 051656Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

NIC-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /125 W
----- 012433

R 051600Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2357

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, RU

SUBJECT: HESS MEDICAL EXAMINATION

REF: BERLIN 1525

1. SUMMARY: FIRST SERIES OF TESTS WERE CARRIED OUT ON HESS SEPTEMBER 4 AT BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL WITHOUT INCIDENT. RESULTS ARE THUS FAR HIGHLY ENCOURAGING, BUT DOCTORS APPEAR INCLINED TO FAVOR SECOND SERIES SEPTEMBER 10 AS PRUDENT MEDICAL PRACTICE. PRESS LEAKS HAVE BEEN FAIRLY MINOR. END SUMMARY.

2. X-RAY EXAMINATION AT BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL EVENING SEPTEMBER 4 OF UPPER DIGESTIVE TRACT REVEALED NO SIGN OF MALIGNANCY OR DANGEROUS OBSTTRUCTIONS, BUT DOCTORS WILL WISH TO COMPLETE EXAMINATION OF LOWER DIGESTIVE TRACT SEPTEMBER 10. EYE EXAMINATION REVEALED THAT DEFECT IN HESS' FIELD OF VISION FIRST OBSERVED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO APPEARS UNRELATED TO ANY CAUSE MORE SERIOUS THAN OLD AGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01543 051656Z

3. TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL, WHICH BEGAN AT 1800, AND TESTS THEMSELVES WERE CONDUCTED IN BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE.

HESS, WHO STOOD UP TO STRAIN OF TESTS WELL AND APPEARED TO ENJOY BREAK IN NORMAL PRISON ROUTINE, WAS BACK IN CELL BY 2300.

4. GERMAN PAPERS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT YET PICKED UP STORY, BUT LONDON DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED SINGLE PARAGRAPH ITEM SEPTEMBER 4 TO EFFECT THAT HESS WAS TO BE EXAMINED IN CONNECTION WITH DUODENAL ULCER CONDITION. AP WIRE CARRIED BERLIN-DATELINED STORY SEPTEMBER 4 ATTRIBUTED TO "KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE" THAT HESS HAD EYE TROUBLE AS RESULT OF WHICH WESTERN ALLIES DESIRED TO HAVE HIM TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR THOROUGH MEDICAL EXAMINATION. SAME SOURCE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO TESTS BUT SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT POTSDAM "DID NOT FOLLOW THROUGH," AND ALLIES WERE NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER NEW ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO GET SOVIET CONCURRENCE IN TESTS.

5. BOTH US AND BRITISH PRESS SPOKESMEN HAVE RESPONDED TO QUERIES BY EXPRESSING IGNORANCE OF ANY SPECIAL SITUATION AT SPANDAU. MISSIONS HAVE AGREED TO MAINTAIN THIS GENERAL LINE WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT IF PRESS SPECULATION BECOMES MORE SENSATIONAL OR FOCUSES DIRECTLY ON TESTS, IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE EXPLICIT. IN THAT EVENT, WE WOULD SEEK SOVIET EMBASSY CONCURRENCE IN MAKING STATEMENT THAT HESS WAS TRANSFERRED TO BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO UNDERGO ROUTINE CLINICAL EXAMINATION, AND WAS THEN RETURNED TO PRISON.

6. BRITISH PRISON GOVERNOR RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL SEPTEMBER 4 FROM HESS' SON IN HAMBURG WHO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL INQUIRIES FROM NEWSMEN INDICATING THAT FATHER WAS ILL AND WAS TO BE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. BRITISH GOVERNOR TOLD SON THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, ROUTINE TESTS WERE TO BE MADE AND SON WOULD BE GIVEN REPORT NEXT TIME HE CAME TO PRISON. SON AGREED TO SAY NOTHING TO PRESS. FRENCH PROTOCOL OFFICER WILL INFORM SOVIETS EMBASSY OF THIS CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 5 IN
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 01543 051656Z

ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO SOVIETS THAT WE ARE LIVING UP TO AGREEMENT (REFTEL) NOT TO INITIATE PRESS STORIES AND THAT WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO PLAY DOWN PRESS INTEREST. SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET REACTED TO DAILY EXPRESS OR AP STORIES.KLEIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN01543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KLEIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730955/aaaabodl.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BERLIN 1525
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HESS MEDICAL EXAMINATION
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005